# St Vincent de Paul Housing

# Board Director

# Expressions of Interest

# August 2024

# Purpose

St Vincent de Paul Housing NSW (the company) is seeking expressions of interest for two or more Directors to join its Board. Individuals with experience in leadership roles in the Society are encouraged to express interest, specifically current or former members of State Council, Regional Presidents or Conference Presidents.

# Background

St Vincent de Paul Housing comprises part of the overall response of the St Vincent de Paul Society in NSW to meeting the needs of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The Trustees of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (NSW) (the Trustees) established St Vincent de Paul Housing in 2013 as a community housing provider, and in 2018 re-purposed the company as a special purpose vehicle for the delivery of social and affordable housing through the NSW Government’s Social and Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF). St Vincent de Paul Housing is solely owned by the Trustees.

Between 2017 and 2022, St Vincent de Paul Housing oversaw the construction of 502 units of social and affordable housing in greater Sydney and regional NSW through the SAFH program. Across the 2022/23 financial year, the SAHF program provided homes to 881 residents – 774 tenants were in housing at 30 June 2023 – with an annual occupancy rate above 99%.

St Vincent de Paul Housing has subcontracted the ongoing delivery of social and affordable housing through the SAHF program (asset management, tenancy management and tailored support) to the Society’s national housing company, Amelie Housing (St Vincent de Paul (Society) Housing Australia).

# Role of Board of Directors

The role of the Board of Directors is to provide strategic oversight and direction for the company’s activities, and to ensure that these activities are aligned with the Society’s mission and the objects for which the company was established. The obligations and powers of the Board are governed by the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth), the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (Cth) and the general law. The Board’s responsibilities include:

* ensuring that the work of the company is aligned with the Society’s vision and mission
* oversighting the company’s strategic direction
* ensuring resources are aligned with the company’s strategic direction
* approving the annual budget
* reporting to the company member (the Trustees) on the company’s performance.

The Trustees are currently reviewing the governance structure and arrangements for St Vincent de Paul Housing, to ensure the most efficient operation of the company and that its governance processes are fit for purpose.

# Expertise

St Vincent de Paul Housing has previously had members of the Society’s State Council on its Board. The current Chair and another Director are former members of State Council. Individuals with experience in leadership roles in the Society are encouraged to express interest in joining the Board, to support a focus on the implementation of the Society’s mission and vision. Relevant expertise also includes:

* member engagement
* financial management and audit
* risk management and compliance
* community engagement in building safe connected communities
* property asset management
* tenancy management
* community service delivery
* governance.

# Attributes

The attributes sought include:

* Leadership skills, including the ability to represent the company and make and take responsibility for decisions and actions.
* Integrity, including maintaining Board trust and confidentiality, and acting in the company’s best interests.
* The ability to engage constructively, including through effective listening and communication.
* The ability to work as a team and demonstrate the commitment and time to make a genuine and active contribution to the Board.
* The ability to negotiate outcomes and influence others.
* The ability to be flexible, adaptable and open to new ideas.

# Expectations

Directors are individually responsible for ensuring that the Board fulfills its role. Directors will:

* review the agenda and papers prior to Board and committee meetings
* actively participate in the discussions and decisions of Board meetings
* systematically evaluate the company’s performance
* be ambassadors for the company.

All Directors will be expected to comply with legal duties and obligations of the position. These duties include:

* acting openly, honestly, in good faith in the best interests of the company as a whole, and for a proper purpose
* acting with a degree of care and diligence that a reasonable person would exercise if in the position of Director
* refraining from making improper use of information gained through the position of Director and from taking improper advantage of the position
* avoiding conflicts of interest wherever possible and appropriately managing conflicts where they arise
* monitoring the company’s financial situation to ensure that the company does not trade while insolvent.

A Director will attend all Board meetings unless he or she has a reasonable excuse. The Board is expected to meet six times per year. Meetings are held in person but Directors unable to attend a meeting in person may participate in the meetings remotely.

# Expressions of interest

If you are interested in the role of Director, please email the following information to John Kell, Company Secretary, at [john.kell@vinnies.org.au](mailto:john.kell@vinnies.org.au)

* a current resume
* a short explanation of your interest in the role and your relevant skills and experience.

Expressions of interest close on **Friday 20 September 2024**.

For further information, please contact:

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| Anne Stanfield AM  Chair, St Vincent de Paul Housing  [anne.stanfield@vinnies.org.au](mailto:anne.stanfield@vinnies.org.au)  0421 176 829 |